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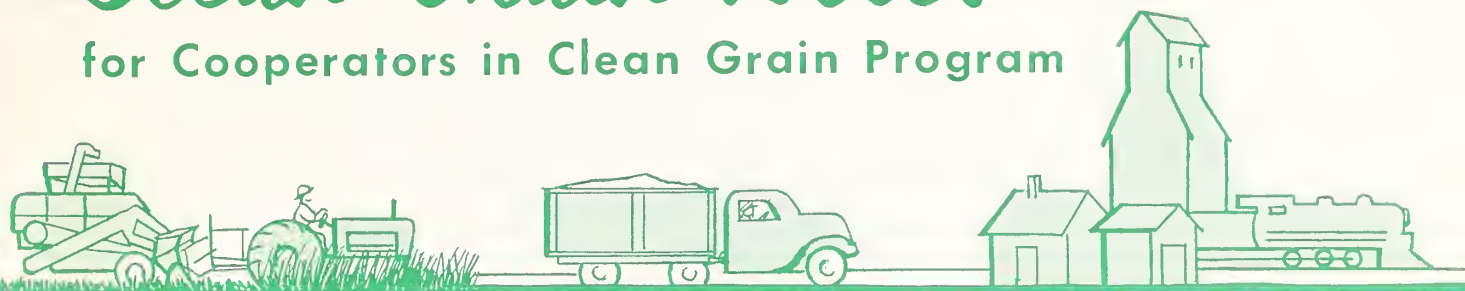
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# Clean Grain Notes

for Cooperators in Clean Grain Program



FEDERAL EXTENSION SERVICE

U. S. DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

NO.

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Wheat Seizures: Need for continued aggressive Clean Grain educational work is shown by figures on contamination and seizure of wheat in interstate transit compiled by the Food and Drug Administration. During the 18-month period, January 5, 1955 to July 1, 1956, 21 cars of wheat were seized by FDA because of rodent or insect contamination. Since then, an additional 49 cars have been seized for the same reason. Total seizures since January of 1955 amount to 107 cars...70 for rodent and insect contamination and 37 for such varied causes as mercury, hydrogen cyanide, and lead contamination, insect fragments, and sour or moldy wheat.

A clearer picture of wheat contamination by rodents is seen in a study made by FDA. From January 5, 1955 to September 1, 1956, 2.1 percent or 154 of the 7,244 cars examined contained one or more rodent pellets per pint of wheat. In the 13-month period, July 1, 1956, to July 31, 1957, 2.3 percent or 69 of the 2,937 cars examined contained one or more rodent pellets per pint.

Food and Drug points out, however, that its figures are not based on random sampling, but on highly selective sampling. Thus the apparent increase may mean only that its inspectors are doing a better job of spotting highly contaminated cars. The attempt to explain the increase does not imply that we have licked the problem, states FDA, it only means we cannot relax our efforts in the Clean Grain Program.

Corn Sanitation Under Discussion: Food and Drug also reports that discussions are underway with the corn processing industry and grain trade on ways and means of improving the sanitary qualities of food corn. The same sanitation principles apply to the handling of corn, says FDA, as apply to the handling of wheat and other food grains. It adds that food corn eventually finds its way to somebody's table, possibly your own, and that it's in the interest of everyone to maintain a quality product.

Price Support Premium for Clean, Dry Corn: One incentive for maintaining corn quality is USDA's corn price support program for 1957, announced September 17. It provides a 1 cent per bushel premium for

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corn with moisture content of 13.5 percent or less, and 1 cent per bushel premium for corn with 2 percent or less cracked kernels and foreign matter. These premiums, included in corn support programs for first time, are designed to encourage delivery of dryer and cleaner corn.

For farm stored corn, premiums will be paid to producers when corn is delivered under loan or purchase agreement. For warehouse-stored corn, premiums will be added to basic county support rate at time loan is taken out. Premium of 1 cent a bushel for corn grading No. 2 or better is being continued, and discounts ranging from 1 to 5 cents per bushel for corn of 14.1 to 17.5 percent moisture content which applied under previous programs are also continued.

Producers should be advised they can obtain as much as 3 cents per bushel premium above basic county support rate for high quality corn this year.

PNW Grain Sanitation Short Course: The fourth annual Grain Sanitation Short Course will be held at Pendleton, Oregon, on November 20-21, announces the Pacific Northwest Crop Improvement Association. The short course is being conducted by the Oregon State College entomology department in cooperation with the Association, the Pacific Northwest Grain Dealers Association, Washington State College, and the University of Idaho. Oregon State College Extension Entomologist Robert Every is arranging the program which is designed primarily for elevator operators and warehousemen.

X-Ray Prospects Encouraging: Despite industry, Food and Drug Administration and Department of Agriculture efforts to develop a simple, low-cost, and reliable method for determining internal insect infestation of grain, no test meeting all these requirements has yet been devised, reports Food and Drug. From the standpoint of reliability, the X-ray method of determining insect infestation is the best to date. It remains to be seen whether it will meet the test of practicality in terms of initial cost of equipment, operation by personnel available, and service to the milling industry. Food and Drug says prospects are encouraging and report a definite increase in interest in the X-ray method.

Check Stored Grain: Frequent checks of the upper layer of grain should be a standard practice for all who store grain. It's here that grain with the highest moisture content is usually found.

Since the outer portion of stored grain is cooler than the center, warm moist air rises up the middle. As it does this, moisture accumulates in the top layer. The moisture content of this part of the grain may be 5 to 6 percent higher than the general moisture level when the grain was stored. Since insects prefer the warmer grain, they migrate to the center, which, in turn, speeds up moisture accumulation there.

High moisture content of stored grain is lessened, of course, when an aeration system is used to maintain even temperatures and moisture throughout the grain.

Watch Left Over Wheat: We all can perform a service now by urging growers to take special precautions with their left-over treated wheat seed. Jim Enix, Oklahoma's extension wheat marketing specialist, reminds us in his Wheat Marketing Notes that the potential financial loss and danger from treated, or pink wheat are high. His tip to farmers: Excess treated seed should be sacked and saved for next year's seed. Don't accidentally market it. It may cost more than it's worth. Don't feed it! It might cost the price of a cow.

New Publications: Three publications of interest to the grain trade have come to our attention. They are:

- (1) Aeration of Grain in Commercial Storages, USDA Marketing Research Report No. 178, an interim publication covering some of the preliminary findings of a broad research project covering areation of grain in commercial storage. The project is being conducted by USDA's Agricultural Marketing Service in cooperation with the Georgia, Indiana, Kansas, Michigan, and Texas experiment stations.
- (2) Grain Grading Primer, USDA Miscellaneous Publication No. 740, a reprint with slight revisions which reflect changes in grading standards for some grains. The primer is designed for producers and country grain dealers who are interested in marketing grain on a grade and quality basis, and for grain marketing students. It is not designed for grain inspectors since they must use more precise grading techniques than those described in this bulletin.
- (3) Grain Storage, Clemson Agricultural College Circular 428, which describes the steps for keeping grain clean and dry in storage. The circular is well-illustrated.

War on Weevils: This is the title of an article in the September issue of THE FARM QUARTERLY magazine we think you will find interesting. The article, which was prepared in cooperation with the Public Health Service deals primarily with safe use of grain fumigants. "We can stop grain bin robbers cold with modern chemical warfare -- but let's do it without gassing ourselves," warns the author.

Food for Thought: We are indebted to Kenton Harris of Food and Drug Administration for this comment on grain sanitation educational programs: "The more vigorous the educational program the less impact Food and Drug Administration regulatory programs have on grain marketing."

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